Installing of a Statue of Mahatma Gandhi at India Gate

418. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to the reply to Unstarred Question 1746 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th March, 1988 and state by when the statue of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, would be installed at India Gate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): The plaster caste of the statue is complete, and its casting in Bronze is likely to be completed by August, 1989.

Damage caused by flood

419. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the serious flood situation in Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himcahal Pradesh etc.; and

(b) if so, the estimated damage caused thereby and the details of the relief measures being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The Government's attention has been drawn to flood situation in some States.

(b) The extent of damage caused due to recent floods, as reported by the concerned States, is given at Annexure. (See Appendix CXLVII. Annexure No. 18) The concerned State Governments have undertaken necessary relief measures.

Pesticides based on neem and other plants

420. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Neem and Nicotine and several other pesticides based on garlic, onion etc. had been developed;

(b) whether these had been tested in any of our Agriculture Institute/Universities for effectiveness and if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether these pesticides of plant origin are freely available throughout the country and if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) whether public sector units like Hindustan Insecticides Limited are likely to be asked to take up manufacture of plant pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some of the products have been tested by the Agricultural Universities and have been found to be effective against a numbr of sucking and stored grain pests.

(c) Nicotine sulphate is commercially availalbe and has been registered by the Registration Committee. Others are being tried for large scale adoption/production.

(d) No, Sir.

Recommendation of Banerjee Committee on pesticides

421. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2151 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th May, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Goverament have since taken any decision on all the reports

submitted so far by the Banerjee Committee on pesticides

(b) if so, whether Government propose to stop production of all the banned and dangerous pesticides in the country; and

(c) whether Government also propose to ban export and import of all such pesticides and also to introduce prior informed consent clause in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The Expert Committee, set up by the Government of India in August, 1984, has so far submitted its reports on DDT, BHC, aldrin, dieldrin chlordane, heptachlor and EDB. Recommendations of the Committee to restrict the use of BHC at its present level has been accepted by the Government. Reports on DDT, aldrin dieldrin, chlordane, heptachlor and EDB are under examination.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

Integrated pest management and biological methods of pest control

422. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recognised integrated pest management and bioligical method for pest control both for agriculture and public health;

(b) whether these technologies have been used in the field and if so, the success achieved so far;

(c) what is the total amount spent for development of these technologies so far and what is the current annual budget at ICAR Institutes, Agriculture Universities CSIR, Laboratories, etc.; and

(d) whether any Books/Pamphlets giving details of such technologies have been brought out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. There are many examples where biological control agents have been used successfully to reduce pest incidence. A predator has been effectively used against mealy bugs on citrus, grapes and coffee. Pyrilla infesting sugarcane has been kept under check in several states by releasing an insect parasite, Insects known as weevils have been successfully used to suppress aquatic weeds such as water hyacinth and water fern in Karnataka and Kerala. NPV (Nuclear polyhedrosis virus) is being used to control Spodoptera in Tobacco and Bihar hairy caterpillar ingroundnut and other crops.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is strengthening the biological control programmes in the country through its All India Coordinated Research Project on Biological Control of Crop Pests and Weeds.

(c) It is difficult to estimate the expenditure involved in developing such technologies as the work is spread over a number of institutions and ears. However, the crop based institutes, All India Coordinated Research Projects on Biological Control of Crop Pests and Weeds and National Centre for Integrated Pest Management have a financial outlay of Rs 130 88 lahs in the 7th Five Year Plan and Rs. 30.66 lakhs for 1988-89.

(d) Yes Sir.

Transfer of technology to its users

423. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of